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- Twenty-Four Pages -

The year 1896 is going out, leaving behind encouraging indications of better times during the next. Even the Christmas shopper goes forth in the faith of brighter days.

While the Federation of Labor indorsed jected the resolution assailing the courts has the power to recognize the Republic and demanding changes in constitutions regarding the judiciary. Mr. Debs does not attend conventions of the federation.

It appears that the lynchings in a Kentucky town, of which an account was given vesterday, were not due to the viciousness of a meb, but to the belief of citizens that men guilty of murder would escape, as one of them had, by technicalities raised in

In New York an association of women has made out a "white list" which contains the names of mercantile houses which treat their employes well. This list has been circulated very widely, with the request that only those houses be patronized. This seems a practical and sensible movement.

The larger part of the British press seems to have forgotten the Venezuelan incident. and consequently is sneering at American tingoism in connection with Cuba. Such sneers will cause no feeling here, but they may lead Spain to believe that their implied assurances of British help mean

"It is the first duty of Congress to provide for the ordinary expenditures of govremarked John Sherman in the Senate the other day. Mr. Sherman is not an up-to-date statesman. The up-to-date statesman in the Senate ignores paying expenditures to go about like a fellow with a chip on his shoulder "looking for trouble."

If some of the young men who are so eager for war would find a history of the last real war in this country and read or Chickamauga, Gettysburg and the suffering from hunger and the elements in such campaigns as the siege of Knoxville, they might prefer some other recreation. "War," said the late General Sherman, "is hell". and he knew.

The Illinois Central Railway Company has offered to sell its employes shares of stock on an installment plan, and already fifteen hundred of them have invested. This is good investment, since the Illinois Central is a well-managed property, but there are many lines so burdened with rentals that their stocks are regarded by investors as the most unreliable of investments.

How would it do for the patriotic and enthusiastic Cubans in New York, who are the Cuban army, to set the example by enlisting for the war themselves? According to all accounts, they could muster a brigade among themselves, and a brigade along the insurgent cause amazingly. It might even be able to do without The eminent patriots might matter, at all events, before further energy in getting Amerrisk their lives while they, the e. p., remain in safety afar off.

A year ago Mr. Gompers was elected of the Federation of Labor by small majority compared with the whole was the candidate of the element keeping the organization out of politics and opposed to the Socialists. This elected by a unanimous vote, the discussions that have taken place during the convention, would indicate conservatism and single purpose which Mr. Gempers represents have com policy to the delegates composing the federation. The re-election of Mr Gompers by a unanimous vote, under such conditions, is a good omen for the organi-

The Chicago Board of Education has determined to take vigorous measures to stop cigarette-smeking by schoolboys. Already stringent regulations have been tried, but partial success. The scheme of the Chicago officials has not been promulgated, but the papers tell them that children cannot be made good by law, in which they are very much like grown people. From Omaha comes the report that deal has been accomplished by boys to piedge themselves not cigarettes, with the condition that whenever they wish their names can be erased from the obligation. If schools could have placed before them the "terrible exemples" of the boy victims of the cigarette habit-the ghastly faces, the sunken eyes, the listless, half-idiotic expression and the dulled intellects of the boy victim-it would probably deter all manly boys from the lifekilling habit.

A number of blcycle paths have been made in New York State by the side of the the wheelmen bearing the expense; but, according to the Buffalo Courier, the plan has not worked well, the drivers of heavy wagons ruthlersly cutting the paths up. The conclusion is that it is bet-

plaints have been made concerning at least part of the Indianapolis bicycle path. and it will doubtless be found increasingly difficult to keep it and its projected extensions free from encreaching vehicles. tion, but its place in public economy has not yet been fixed and will take time to establish. The influence of the wheel, however, is in favor of good roads, and the inability to secure separate paths will make this influence all the stronger.

COMPLICATIONS OVER THE CUBAN QUESTION.

The opinions of Secretary Olney regarding the resolution acknowledging the independence of the republic of Cuba present a new phase of the contention. He holds that the acknowledging of the existence of a new government is a function favor the resolution of the Senate committee are not by any means certain that Congress has that power, and intimate that it may be a question for the Supreme Court

The President has not yet returned from

duck-hunting; but it is not probable that an official who knows his relation to the President so well as Mr. Olney must, would speak so positively upon the subject as he has without being sure that he is expressing the views of Mr. Cleveland Assuming that this is the case, the contention between the foreign relations committee and possibly the whole of Congress and the President will be so interesting as to force Cuban affairs into the background. Suppose Congress should pass the Cuban resolution and send it to the President, and that the President, upon ceiving it, should send it back with Mr. Olney, forth by the recognition of govnamely, that a function pursue? It could of Cuba, but, without the action of the President, to what can it amount? The representative of the United States in Cuba would follow the instructions of the President. Congress would not name the consul or agent to recognize the republic of Cuba, since all such appointments are solely executive functions. Without the sanction of the President, the privileges accorded to nations at war would not be extended to Cuba. For instance, Cuban, vessels could not claim protection in the waters of the United States.

Thus it seems that the attempt of the Senate foreign relations committee to recognize the republic of Cuba without the concurrence of the executive will cause contention between the executive and legislative branches of the government if Congress shall follow the lead of that committee. Such a contention would lead to a strife which should be avoided, and which cannot be ended until the terms of both the President and Congress shall expire, March 4, 1897. Such is the meaning of the language of Secretary Olney. Such being the situation, it seems that the executive and Congress should endeavor to unite ipon a line of action which will not involve the embarrassments and difficulties involved in the attitude of the administration toward the resolution of the Senate

GOV. MATTHEWS'S CUBAN LETTER.

It is not that Governor Matthews is in favor of the recognition of the independence of Cuba that his letter to the New York Journal is open to criticism, since a very large portion of the American people are evidently in favor of such action. The cause of criticism lies in the fact that the line of action which he advocates is in violation of the most clearly established principle of international law-the faithful neutrality of governments towards two nations or two recognized governments which are engaged in war. The recognition of the independence of Cuba by the United States cannot change the relation of our government either to Spain or Cuba. During the rebellion the recognition of the Confederacy as a belligerent did not warrant Great Britain and other European governments in pursuing any different policy toward the Lincoln government than that of absolute so anxious to secure American recruits for Britain and France could sell the United On the other hand, when a person ap-States arms, but after it arms or war material could be sold to neither. Our complaint was not so much that Great Britain had recognized the Confederates as belligerents as that it did not enforce the wellknown international laws regarding neutrality. The full force of these laws was recognized. When complaint was made by the Lincoln government that ships had been fitted out at British ports for the Confederacy, apology was made and greater vigilance promised. At the close of the war, when it was proved that the greatest loss to the shipping of the United States resulted from the cruisers built and fitted out in British ports, this government made a demand that Great Britain pay the damage which was sustained because of such cruisers. In 1871 the United States would have gone to war with Great Britain because of the depredations of these cruisers from British ports upon our commerce had not the latter government recognized the responsibility of neutral governments maintain neutrality by agreeing to submit the whole contention to a tribunal composed of representatives of other nations and to pay any award which that tribunal should make. After full hearing the tribunal decided that Great Britain had permitted the neutrality laws to be violated. and that \$15,000,000 was the amount of direct damages inflicted upon United States commerce. Great Britain paid the \$15,000,000. Because of our connection with that transaction the United States, more than any other nation, stands as the champion of the maintenance of absolute neutrality between

belligerents. Governor Matthews seems either to have ignored the existence of such international laws or to be entirely ignorant regarding them. This is a fair assumption, because in his letter to the New York Journal he

If Cuban independence should be recognized, the interference of the United States would not be necessary, since thousands of men and millions of money would at once be raised to make independence a fact. All that could be necessary to accomplish this is the knowledge that the United States will not interfere with the organization of the companies or their embarkation

And yet twenty-five years ago this government would have gone to war with Great Britain, not because its government permitted troops to be raised and embarked to the Confederacy, but because two or three cruisers were sold by private parties the making of hard, to Confederate agents to prey upon Amer- has found out its poor quality. Vulgar and smooth readways suitable for all traffic ican commerce. Unmindful or ignorant of morbid curiosity was appealed to a year than to waste energy and money in the international law. Governor Matthews or so ago by a series of "sex novels," of uliding of separate tracks. Similar com- would make the United States the base of which the "Heavenly Twins" was a sam-

war against Spabi in Cuba, by permitting American citizens to recruit and fit out armies for Cubs. without molestation. Such action would make every nation in the world an evemy, not because they are in sympathy with Spain, but because this government had ignored an essential part of the international code for which, a quarter ous champion. Equally oblivious is Governor Matthews of the well-known fact that the laws of the United States make enlisting men within its jurisdiction for another country "a high misdemeanor," and that by the same laws those who incite such enlistments for war in a foreign country with which we are at peace is a greater misdemeanor, judging from the penalty. In another part of his letter Governor Matthews, intimating the possibility of war with Spain, makes the statement that "150,-000 men in Indiana would be ready to march for the field in a week." And yet the Governor must know that the authoriof Indiana could not procure 10,000 stand of modern arms or clothing suitable for 10,000 men to wear into the field in the time specified. He seems to ignore the fact that a war with Spain would be a sea and not a land war; that the demand would not be for armies, but for war ships and gunboats, which cannot be purchased, and

RAILROAD ACCIDENTS AND RISKS.

Within a few days two shocking accidents

on railroads have been reported in the

Journal from different parts of the State

each resulting in the death of a mother and

daughter. One case was the very common

one of driving across a railroad track with

a horse and carriage and mistaking the

distance of an approaching train, while in

the other the victims were caught by

train while walking on a trestle. Consider-

ing the frequency with which persons walk-

ing on railroad tracks cross bridges and

trestles, in spite of the warnings, it is sur-

prising that such accidents do not happen

of this matter than the reverse.

which require months and years to build

and equip. It is far better to be sensible

and fairly intelligent in the consideration

oftener. Experienced railroad men know there is always risk in walking on a track. The risk in crossing a bridge or trestle is still greater, and attempting to drive across a track in advance of an approaching train is simply tempting fate. The chances are that the train is moving faster than one thinks, and if that is not the case, the backing or shying of the horse, the breaking of a piece of harness, the blocking of wheel or any similar mishap means swift destruction. It is characteristic of American recklessness to take such chances merely in order to save a few moments of time, which, perhaps, are not of great value after they are saved. It is probable that in a majority of such cases the fatal result is due to the carelessness, negligence or foolishness of the victim, and yet in suits for damages juries are almost sure to find against the railroad companies. No doubt in some cases the companies are liable on account of the neglect of the engineers to give the proper signal of the approaching train or to give it at the proper place or required distance. In this, as in other matters, familiarity breeds contempt, and long immunity from accidents is apt to make engineers and trainmen forgetful or indifferent to orders or legal requirements. These are none too strict, and the public safety requires that they should be scrupulously observed. Failure to de so is very apt to result in fatal accidents. and where this is due to the negligence of an employe the company is liable in damages. On the other hand, if the victim of the accident was plainly guilty of contributory negligence it is not so clear that the company should be liable, though juries are very apt to hold them so. The general rule of law is that a traveler on the highway when approaching a railroad crossing is bound to take every reasonable precaution to avoid getting hurt by a passing train. When the view is unobstructed he must look up and down the track, and if h fail to do so he will probably be held guilty of contributory negligence. If intervening objects obstruct the view it is his duty to be more vigilant, as also if a gale of wind or the rattle of vehicles or other noises tend to deaden the sound of an approaching train. Under some circumstances the law neutrality. Before such recognition Great | matter of precaution, this is always safest. proaches a crossing where his view is obstructed he is entitled to assume that trainmen will do their duty and give warning of the approach of a train at such distance as the law or usage requires to be given. Failure to give such warning will certainly make the company liable in damages for an accident arising therefrom, unless it can be shown that the other party was guilty of contributory negligence. The United States Supreme Court has defined the law on this point as follows:

The failure of the engineer to sound the whistle or ring the bell, if such were the fact, did not relieve the deceased from the necessity of taking ordinary precautions for his safety. Negligence of the company's employes in these particulars was no excuse for negligence on his part. He was bound to listen and look before he attempted to cross the railroad track, in order to avoid an approaching train, and not to walk carelessly into the place of possible danger.

Of course, this is good law, but it still leaves the question in some doubt as to what degree of precaution a driver or travtempts to drive in front of an approaching train, miscalculating the distance, or one who walks on a railroad bridge or trestle. trusting to luck that no harm will appear does not exercise any precaution at all.

POPULAR TASTE IN FICTION.

The New York Observer thinks it sees signs that the novel is slowly losing its predominant place in the affections of the public. It believes that the work of really great novelists must always find readers, but says less attention is paid to fiction and less importance attaches to it as lit erature than in the past. What it bases this opinion on is not clear in view of the great output of novels and the constantly increasing number of publishing houses which devote themselves almost entirely to fiction. It is true, no doubt, that th greater number of the books issued are not of a high literary order, but it is also true the Journal believes, that the popular standard of taste is improving and that this fact will tend to the production of more novels of high quality rather than to decline in the taste for fiction because the supply of the best is limited. The improvement in taste is shown by the swift rejection of what is well classed as decadent literature. Shrewd advertising of any sor of book, however worthless, will cause i to be read, but no advertising can make its life other than brief after the public

ple, but the "Heavenly Twins" could not be galvanized into life now by any sort of advertising, and its imitators are like wise dead and forgotten-at least on this side of the water, for it is worth while to remember that this particular variety of decadent fiction was almost entirely of foreign authorship. In this country another form of it had an ephemeral existence; perhaps it still has life, indeed, but certainly of an enfeebled sort. Very little, at least, is heard now of the convulsive, ungrammatical works of young Mi Stephen Crane. People read them, laughed at their absurd straining after effect and cast them aside; they do the same with other fiction that comes loudly heralded and fails to meet the requirements, for the public is always looking for entertaining fiction, and is ready to sift the wheat from a mountain of chaff in order to get it. The truth is, that in spite of the flood

of unwholesome novels from abroad and

of crude ones from prematurely "boomed" native authors the taste of the American public has not been entirely vitiated. It has always had a preference for clean fiction, and, to their great credit be it said that is what the best writers of this country have furnished. Not only has their work this quality of wholesomeness, but much that is now being produced is literature of a genuine sort. Americans have, indeed, reason to be proud of the school of story writers now contributing to their pleasure. There is Mr. Howells, who, if not a great novelist, is inimitable in his microscopic studies average man and his every-day life There is Mrs. McEnery Stuart, whose "Sonny" offers a delightful picture of the character of Sonny's father. There is Mrs. Wiggin, whose "Marm Lisa" is so humorous and sprightly a study of a social and psychological problem that its philanthropic purpose excites sympathy instead of offense. There is Joel Chandler Harris, whose "Story of Aaron" is a book for mature readers as well as for children, and his "Sister Jane," a picture of Georgia life, pleasing now but to become of more value as that life changes into modern ways, And, above all, there is Miss Jewett, that artistic, sympathetic delineator of homely New England life and character. Nothing more charming than her "Country of the Pointed Firs" is to be found in the bewildering number of the season's books. It is not a novel in the strict sense, but a series of sketches of daily life during a summer spent in a village on the coast of Maine, yet the reader finds himself taking as deep an interest in the doings of the elderly matter-of-fact "Mrs. Todd" as if she were the most attractive maiden, while her mother, Mrs. Blackett, is a character to be remembered long; "a delightful little person," says the author herself, "with bright eyes and an affectionate air of expectation like a child on a holiday." She had social gifts, also, this lady of eighty-six years, "and sometimes, as I watched her eager, sweet old face," says her photographer, " wondered why she had been set to shine or this lonely island of the northern coast. It must have been to keep the balance true, and to make up to all her scattered and depending neighbors for other things which they may have lacked." Miss Jewett has the art of conveying to her readers the very atmosphere of her surroundings. One almost detects the veritable fragrance or Mrs. Todd's herb garden in its pages, or catches a whiff of the salt air, and the tone of the story is as pure and sweet and in spiring as either. It is a book which may win its way slowly, since it has no sensational or poster qualities to bring it to public attention, but it will become a classic. in due time, like Mrs. Gaskell's "Cranford." or like its own author's earlier work "Deephaven." With such books issuing from American publishing houses there is no cause for discouragement concerning American fiction.

The Commonwealth of Connecticut is in quandary. It has on its hands, not exactly a white elephant, but a member of th General Assembly who is so large that does not know what to do with him. The Hartford Courant says the first member of the new Legislature to come to that city to select a seat was Hon. H. C. Messenger. and when he called on the superintendent of the capitol that official found that h weighed 330 pounds. He has weighed 350 pounds, but is somewhat reduced now. H came to Hartford early to see if there was a chair in the Hall of Representatives not, whether the State would furnish one. The only chair owned by the Commonwealth large enough to receive Mr. Messenger is the lieutenant governor's Charter Oak chair in the Senate chamber. This is a sort of historic chair of state which has not been used for a long time, and which is not permitted to be removed from the Senate chamber. The State is able to have a new chair made for the honorable member, but the Hall of Representatives is constructed to hold a certain number of chairs of an average size, and it was never contemplated that one chair should occupy the space of three. The Commonwealth of Connecticut employs a capitol cabinet maker, and at last accounts he and th superintendent of the capitol were trying to find a way out of the difficulty. The House might solve it by electing the mem ber speaker. It is not likely the speaker' chair is large enough for him, but there must he room behind the speaker's desk for one that would be, and, if there was any trouble about his getting into it he might be let down through the roof with a derrick. Having been regularly elected Mr. Messenger has a right to expect that he will be provided with a seat, even if the State has to build a new capitol

The reports of the health board of Massachusetts show that there has been a decline in mortality from pulmonary consumption in the State since 1880. At that time the deaths from consumption averaged 32.7 to each 10,000 of population. 1889 the average was 25.7 to each 10,000 and in 1894 it had fallen still further, to 22 each 10,000 of population. That is, the mortality of the dread disease, one of chief scourges of New England, has fallen one-third in Massachusetts. Dr. Abbott. secretary of the Board of Health, attributes the decline to the use of the bicycle, hi theory being that the rapid respiration in cident to bicycle riding strengthens th lungs and enables them to throw off for eign substances. The Springfield Republic an, while not denying the benefits which may be derived from the use of the bicycle by women, calls attention to the fact that the decline in the mortality of pulmon-1880 ary diseases began in been most rapid down to 1889, before the safety bicycle had been much used by women. The Republican attributes the falling off to a better understanding of the dis

as a "beautiful girl, of Newport, Ky., and a descendant of George Washington." Thi is confusing and also embarrassing in view immortal George, and must cause distress to the beautiful Mary Anne. Under certain circumstances, which, however, did not exist, if history is accurate, Mary Anne or any other descendant might point with just pride to George as a grandfather, but under other circumstances, which need not b mentioned here, and which, let us trust did not exist, either, it would seem better for all concerned not to mention the relationship. Mary Anne Lee, being beautiful, naturally could not help attracting the attention of the pictorial press, but it is unfortunate that that blundering engine got her name connected with Washington's in so disagreeable a way.

factors of an ancient joke get together in the Police Court. This happened the other day, however, in Baltimore, the husband having been placed under arrest by the injured wife for having torn up her bonnet along with the bill. This misguided man evidently took the time-honored pleasantry as a serious production. New York surgeons lately removed man's stomach, put it in good repair an returned it to its proper place, where it is now said to be doing excellent service for its owner. The late George Harding once

The professional funny man has always

had a good deal to say about the wife's

new bonnet and the husband's objection to

its cost, but it is seldom that these three

and hung upon the fence. Had he lived until now he might see the deed done-or. at least, the next thing to it. Evidently the football undergraduates in Princeton are not in the field exclusively for their health, but for the money they

lamented mournfully in his paper that a

make. During the season of 1896 the team made \$14,787. There may be new trouble when the W

C. T. U. discover that a Mr. Booze is member of the McKinley inaugural com-BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

The Cheerful Idiot.

Woman," said the typewriter boarder 'woman is not much taken with secret so-

"No," said the Cheerful Idiot, "but how dearly she loves society secrets.'

She Was Sorry. "Sis' Liza, you ought fer toe be sorry fer hittin' Sis' Mandy in de haid wiv vat half

"I is sorry. Dat ar lick des nachully knocked her hat into de lates' fashionable

Poor Pasturage. "Just thirty-three years ago to-day, said the old soldier, "the top of my head was grazed by a bullet."

"There isn't much grazing there now, is there, grandpa?" was the comment of the youngest grandchild, and as the old gentleman rubbed his bare poll he had to admit the correctness of the assertion.

Another Branch of Mathematics. "I have to help Johnny with his mental arithmetic every evening," said the young woman, "and it is a nuisance."

"Do you-er-find that celebrated problem about one plus one equals one?" asked the

"I said mental arithmetic, not senti mental," said the young woman, with great dignity.

SCIENTIFIC.

Lucium, which enjoys the distinction of being the first supposed chemical element to be patented, has been examined by Crookes, the great English chemist, who pronounces it an impure yttria, and not a new element at all

The latest catalogue gives 11,092 specimens as the number of snakes in the British Museum. This is the most complete collection ever made, representing, according to Dr. G. A. Boulenger, 1,327 of the 1,639 species that are known to have existed. Official authority to use aluminium on passenger cars in place of brass, copper axles, bearings.

and iron-except for springs, brake beams and couplings-has been obtained by the management of the French state railways. The French passenger coaches are smaller than the Amercan, yet the cars trimmed with aluminium are a ton and a half lighter than those of old style, making a total reduction of thirty tons in the weight of an ordinary train o twenty coaches

A patented sanitary coffin, described by Welsh physician in the London Lancet consists of an outer casing of wood, which is lined with zinc, and inside of this with a half-inch layer of a very absorbent, cement-like material, whose composition is not stated. The lid is secured by freshmixed cement, hermetically sealing the cofin. The absorbent layer takes up the gases as they are generated from the corpse, thus doing away with the moist decomposition. Katharine Green writes her stories in pencil The carcass of a sheep was found, after cay, but quite dry and emitting only

faint, musty odor. Phellosine is the name given by a French inventor to a substance claimed to serve all the purposes of cork. An investigation to determine whether a factory should be permitted near Paris has disclosed the fact that the product is really cork bark finely powdered and agglutinated by a solution of ture being molded, compressed and allowed to dry. The material so prepared is practically a very fine-grained cork. It contains 10 or 12 per cent. of nitrocellulose, and is little more combustible than cork itself but the manufacture is attended by much risk on account of the combustibility of the fine dust and the vapors of the extremely

A veritable picture of the life of early residents in a remote part of Europe-of the Chuds, who lived in western and north western Russia-has been presented by one of the very remarkable archaeological finds of the past season. Near Perm, on the hill left bank of the Kama river, M. Sergucen discovered traces of an earth fort, with an extensive burial place, from which has been taken an immense quantity of relics, in cluding many earthenware vessels and carticads of fragments. Many of these are engraved with men on horseback and in bees, flies, birds, mammals, snakes and other pictures. There were also found engraved plates of silver and bronze nze statuettes, masks, and an immens number of rings, stars, bells, small models of sledges, thimbles, arrowheads, hatchets, knives, gilded bronze, pearls, skulls o stags, carnivorous animals and other ob

While light motor carriages have been brought to a practical stage by the intro duction of pneumatic tires and gasoline en gines, great improvement has been made in the use of mechanical power for heavier road vehicles. Steam is thus far the only promising power. France has taken leading part in the experiments, and a hat manufacturer of Epernay, M. Scotte, has been especially successful in working out a satisfactory steam emnibus, after ten years of effort. In its latest form this consists of a steam carriage and a trailer, the former seating fourteen passengers an the latter twenty-four. The forward half the steam carriage is occupied by a two-cylinder vertical engine of sixteen horse power, a vertical boiler and a fue box for 440 pounds of coke, a four hours' supply. The steam carriage is seventeen feet long and six feet wide, weighing 7.70 pounds when empty; the trailer, seventeen feet by six feet, weighing 3,300 pounds The train can turn in a circle of 114 feet radius. Trials in the department of the Meuse seem to justify the belief that steam emnibus lines must soon become general in cities and suburbs.

Surprising things have been told of formc aldehyde, which recent experience recommends as a disinfectant in place of destructive sulphur fumes, chlorine and bromine or the poisonous corrosive sublimate. Dr. Paul Rosenburg, of Berlin, finds it o be undoubtedly the most powerful termicide known, as a solution of one in 5,000 kills all disease germs, but most wonderful of all is the effect he reports it to thereto.

The illustrated press is printing the pictory and is described to the property. From a sixth to a third of an ture of Mary Anne Lee, who is described to the place on whooping cough. A 60-per-cent, solution of commercial formaldehyde in methylic alcohol is used, with the addition of menthel to overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property. From a sixth to a third of an overcome the irritating property.

on the floor, and it is claimed that inhalaon of the air of the room at once re the paroxysms of whooping cough from is confusing and also embarrassing in view eighteen to twenty per night to four or five, of the historical statements concerning the and soon causes them to disappear altogether. Children in the early stages entire recover from the cough in a few day The formic aldehyde, administered in small doses in milk-sugar solution, was thought to have a favorable effect also in tuberculosis, erysipelas and diphtheria.

Few metallurgical facts are of greater

interest and importance than the amazing

influence exerted upon fron by a minute

admixture of carbon, wrought fron being nearly free from this substance, the alloys known as the various steels containing from 0.25 to 3 per cent, and cast iron having a higher proportion. A recent lecture at Sheffield, England, brought out the latest knowledge of the effects of varying proportions of carbon in steel. Professor Arnold stated that experiments have shown the maximum tenacity of unhardened steels containing about 1.2 per cent. of carbon to be about sixty-three tons per square inch, more carbon actually reducing the tenacity until at 1.8 per cent, the maximum tensile stress is only fifty-five tons per square inch. With increase of carbon the ductility liminishes. At about 0.1 per cent. of carbon the elongation was 47 per cent. in two inches, while at 1.8 per cent. it was only about 4 per cent. It is now understood that specimens of steel of similar composition may have quite different mechanical pro erties. The microscope has caused it to be generally recognized that steel is not a homogeneous soild, but an artificial igneous rock, like granite. Pure iron consists of a series of crystals belonging to the cubic system. When a small quantity of carbon is added it does not become equally diffused throughout the mass, but combines with a certain portion of the iron to form steel, which should be regarded as a definite compound. A steel of medium hardness—say 0.45 per cent. of carbon-is really a mixture of pure soft iron and hard steel. At 0.9 per cent, of carbon, which may be taken as the saturation point of steel, the whole mass is troublesome liver could not be taken out hard steel. As more carbon is added the metal becomes supersaturated, and what may be called white pig iron begins to ap-

LITERARY NOTES.

There is to be a sequel to "Sentimental Fommy," but Mr. Barrie expects to write another story in a new field before he re-

sumes the theme. Among the books recently translated into Japanese are Darwin's "Origin of Species, Westermark's "History of Marriage" and Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason."

Mr. Marion Crawford has returned from Italy and has settled in New York for an other winter of hard work. In spite of his unflagging industry, he appears to be in his usual splendid health.

A Berlin dispatch to the London Standard inous work, containing not only his opinions on musical subjects, but also reminiscences of the more important events in his life. It consists of aphorisms and brief ac-

counts of his experiences. W. Robertson Nicoll gives in the British Weekly his impressions of "Literary People in New York." Speaking of the Century Magazine he says: "The chief editor, Mr. R. W. Gilder, is, perhaps, the handsomest man in America. He has a singularly fine

and spiritual face and is a man of charmng manners. Probably Hall Caine is the only modern author who has not been attacked by the gold-making fever. He, at any rate, does not fall into the error of over production, for since he finished "The Manxman" he has been entirely occupied with his new novel, "The Christian." which is now com-

pleted. It will be published serially. The biography of Lord Tennyson proceeds slowly. It was thought at first that the delay sprang from consideration for persons now living, but it seems that it is the great magnitude of the "Life" which impedes its progress. Some bulky volumes may be expected when the present Lord

Tennyson has completed his labor of filial love and duty The Harpers will publish in December volume of society sketches by Du Maurier. It will be an oblong quarto of about two hundred pages and will be called "English Society." It will contain ninety-three pictures and will include two or three from "Trilby," as many from "Peter Ibbetson" and the rest selected from the illustrations

that Du Maurier has contributed from time to time to the Harper periodicals. Thirty years ago "St. Elmo" swept through countless editions and enthralled myriads of novel readers. Its vogue cannot be exaggerated and Miss Augusta J Evans had such personal, popular, instan-

taneous fame as but one or two other American women have had. The book is still read, still wanted and still admired. Its thirtieth year has been celebrated by two weighty volumes with full-page illus trations, process and photogravure. His Grace the Duke of Bedford has writ-

ten a book called "The Story of a Great Estate," which promises to be of service to students of English economics. It starts with the close of the Napoleonic wars in 1815 and follows through eighty years the history of certain estates belonging to the Russeil family, giving an account of their come and expenses. It is expected to give to the public an opportunity never before enjoyed to test the financial results of the management of a great estate over a long period of time, in districts which represent every variety of English farming. There is seen to be a new romance from

the pen of Anna Katharine Green. It will be called "That Affair Next Door," a title suggestive of all the myste v in the worldand with the title comes the assurance of the publishers that the story is equal in plot construction and thrilling incident to any work that this clever writer has done. It may interest the curious to know that Anna on a manilla pad of paper and that her of Scrooge's niece's sisters, for he anhandwriting is exceedingly plain and read-A superficial glance at her manuscript affords evidence of the care she takes in polishing up her stories.

A reviewer thinks Mr. Barrie must share many of the traits of his "Sentimental Tommy," judging from the account which he gives of his behavior while in the throe of composition. He says in "Margaret Ogil-"It is my contemptible weakness nitrocellulose in acetone, the doughy mix- that if I say a character smiled vacuously teach. I must smile vacuously; if he frowns or leers, I frown or leer; if he is a coward or given to contortions, I cringe or twist my legs until I have to stop writing to undo the knot. I bow with him, eat with him and gnaw my mustache with him. If the character be a lady with an exquisite laugh suddenly terrify you by laughing ex-

Mr. William C. Lane, the librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, asks for information concerning George Washington's books The Boston Athenaeum possesses over three hundred volumes from Washington's library, acquired in 1848 from Henry Stevens. A careful catalogue of these books has recently been compiled by Mr. A. P. C. Grif fin, of the Lenox Library, who has examined all of Washington's letters in the State Department at Washington, in Phila delphia. Boston and elsewhere, and made notes of all passages in them relating to his books and the conditions under which they were obtained. The catalogue, which will shortly be published, includes in addi tion to the books owned by Washington, number of others formerly belonging to Judge Bushrod Washington and other members of the family, and the large collection Washingtoniana which the Athenaeum has gradually collected. It is intended to add, in an appendix, the list of Washington's books as given in the appraiser's in ventory filed in the Orphan's Court of Fairfax county, Virginia. This list shows about one thousand volumes, and most of books in the Athenaeum collection can be to trace the whereabouts of any of the other volumes, many of which have been sold at auction within the last ten years.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

A. Conan Doyle has finished a new com edy, entitled "The Brothers Dawson." The pronunciation of Maceo's name is said by a Cuban to be "Mah-say-oh." with the heaviest accent on the middle syllable. The present Czar cultivates his tenor voice when he has time. His father played the trombone and his great-grandfather Ow, what has everybody gone and been and

It is openly stated that the new English

Bishop of Peterborough was not appointed

for his past services to the church, his learning or his piety, but because "he had enough money in his pocket to repair the west front of the cathedral 23.500 down for one song, while from "The Lost Chord" alone it is said that he has realized over \$50,000. Signor Tosti, the com-poser of "Forever and Forever," whose first manuscripts were declined "with

thanks," can now command \$1,250 for

eyesight, finds relaxation in a little water. r drawing, formerly a favorite pastime

The Boston Transcript thinks the election of McKinley a confirmation of the old radition that the American people like their Presidents to have only one Christian name. The first five Presidents had no middle name, and when McKinley is inaugurated he will be the seventeenth President

without one. Felix De Fontaine, one of the civil-war correspondents, has died at his home in Columbia, S. C., being about sixty-four years old. He was a native of Boston, but of French parentage. It was his distinction to have furnished the North the first news of the attack on Ft. Sumter, and he continued his connection with the New York Herald throughout almost all his life.

Mr. Do Fontaine published several books, Christmas comes but once a year, And, oh, but I am glad; For more than one of them, I fear, Would drive me to the bad! -Cleveland Leader.

To buy these things the lass so jolly Now to the Christmas mart doth goquarter's worth of shining holly; Four dollars' worth of mistletoe -Washington Star.

How oft do congressmen awake To find their hopes have fled. This is the speech he thought he'd make; And this is what he said:

"I second the motion." -Washington Star.

SHREDS AND PATCHES.

"To know how to lose," said a diplomatist," is the first lesson of success."-Cen-

The woman suffragists have now but forty-one more States to conquer.-Newark

A woman does most of her talking about soul union before she gets married.-New

York Press. He-Well, your sister is married. Now

it's your turn. She-Oh, George! ask papa, -New York Journal. Why is it people always seem good na-

tured when it snows, but in the dumps when it rains?-Philadelphia Times. It is the season when we think most fondly of those dear friends who never gave us anything.-Philadelphia Inquirer.

The yellow fever epidemic in Cuba is said to be almost as severe as the yellow kid malady in New York.-Galveston News No man has yet been able to discover the means of giving friendly advice to a woman, not even his own wife.-Balzac, Necessarily Audible-"What a loud dress Mrs. Jaysmith has on." "Yes; it is ornamented with accordion trimming."-Judge. No matter how much he loyes his wife,

a man who spends much of his time in the house cannot help pitying the hired girl .-Boston Transcript We want it understood right now that no girl need buy mistletoe to tempt us; we are open to temptation without such a use-

less expenditure.-Atchison Globe. "My dear," expostulated his wife, "why will you eat such a hearty breakfast on Sunday morning? You know you are almost sure to have a nightmare in church." Detroit Tribune.

"Uncle Simon, what is old-fashioned politeness?" "It is a way people used to have of asking a man about his health and then listening until he got through replying."-Chicago Record.

CHRISTMAS BITS FROM DICKENS.

A merry Christmas to you!

Come! Dine with us to-morrow. Old Fezziwig laughed all over himself.

from his shoes to his organ of benevolence. We're to be together all the Christmas long, and have the merriest time in all the world.

The walls and ceiling were so hung with

living green that it looked a perfect grove,

from every part of which bright gleaming berries glistened. In words and looks; in things so slight and insignificant that it is impossible to

add and count 'em up There were not forty children conducting themselves like one, but every child was

conducting itself like forty. Girded round its middle was an antique scabbard, but no sword was in it, and the ancient sheath was eaten up with rust, There was an air of cheerfulness abroad

that the clearest summer air and brightest

summer sun might have endeavored to dif-

fuse in vain. Now two smaller Cratchits, boy and girl, came tearing in, screaming that outside the baker's they had smelled the goose and

known it for their own

A smell like a washing day! That was the cloth. A smell like an eating-house and a pastry-cook's next door to each other, with a laundress's next to that! That was the

The very lamplighter, who ran on before, dotting the dusky street with specks of light, and who was dressed to spend the evening somewhere, laughed out loudly as the spirit passed.

Topper had clearly got his eye upon one that a bachelor was a wretched outcast who had no right to express an opinion on the subject

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the past, the present and the future. The spirits of all three shall strive within me. will not shut out the lessons that they

No fog, no mists; clear, bright, jovial, stirring cold; cold, piping for the blood to dance to; golden sunlight, heavenly sky; sweet, fresh air; merry bells. Oh, glorious,

As he was stooping to sit down the chimes rang. "Amen," said Trotty, pulling off his hat and looking up toward them. "Amen to the bells, father?" cried Meg. "They broke in like a grace, my dear,"

said Trotty. "When things is very bad," said Trotty, very bad, indeed, I mean; almost at the worst, then the bells say 'Toby Veck, Toby Veck, Job coming soon, Toby! Toby Veck, Toby Veck, Job coming soon, Toby!"

"And it comes, father?" said Meg. "Always," answered Toby. "Never falls." And the widest open country is a long

dull streak of black; and there's hoar frost on the finger-post and thaw upon the track; and the ice it isn't water and the water isn't free; and you couldn't say that anything is what it ought to be; but he's coming, coming, coming! Oh, mother Nature, give thy children the

true poetry of heart that hid itself in this poor carrier's breast-he was but a carrier by the way-and we can bear to have identified on it in spite of the brief and rier by the way-and we can bear to have imperfect titles given. Mr. Lane is anxious them talking prose, and leading lives of prose; and bear to bless thee for their com-

Caleb Plummer and his blind daughter lived all alone by themselves, as the story books say-and my blessing, with yours to back it, I hope, on the story books, for saying anything in this work-a-day world.

"Ow, if you please, don't!" cried Tilly. throwing back her head and bursting out into a howl. "Ow, if you please, don't! done with everybody, making everybody else so wretched? Ow-w-w-w!"

A day to make home doubly home. To give he chimney corner new delights. Such a wild winter day as best prepares the way Sir Arthur Sullivan can now command | for shut-out night; for curtained rooms and cheerful looks: for music, laughter, dancing, light and jovial entertainment.

"Lord, keep my memory green." It's a very good prayer, sir, that of the learned centleman in the peaked beard, with a ruff